
NOTICES (continued)

Presentation of a prescription to a pharmacy does not constitute a claim for benefits under the plan. If a covered person is required to pay the cost of a covered prescription drug, he or she may submit a written claim for plan benefits to Humana.

A general request for an interpretation of plan provisions will not be considered a claim. Requests of this type, such as a request for an interpretation of the eligibility provisions of the plan, should be directed to the plan administrator.

Failure to provide necessary information

If a *pre-service claim* submission is not made in accordance with the plan's requirements, Humana will notify the *claimant* of the problem and how it may be remedied within five (5) days (or within 24 hours, in the case of an *urgent-care claim*). If a *post-service claim* is not made in accordance with the plan's requirement, it will be returned to the submitter.

Authorized representatives

A covered person may designate an authorized representative to act on his or her behalf in pursuing a benefit claim or appeal. The authorization must be in writing and authorize disclosure of health information. If a document is not sufficient to constitute designation of an authorized representative, as determined by Humana, the plan will not consider a designation to have been made. An assignment of benefits does not constitute designation of an authorized representative.

Any document designating an authorized representative must be submitted to Humana in advance or at the time an authorized representative commences a course of action on behalf of the covered person. Humana may verify the designation with the covered person prior to recognizing authorized representative status.

In any event, a health care provider with knowledge of a covered person's medical condition acting in connection with an Urgent-care Claim will be recognized by the plan as the covered person's authorized representative.

Covered persons should carefully consider whether to designate an authorized representative. Circumstances may arise under which an authorized representative may make decisions independent of the covered person, such as whether and how to appeal a claim denial.

Claims decisions

After a determination on a claim is made, Humana will notify the *claimant* within a reasonable time, as follows:

- **Pre-service claims** - Humana will provide notice of a favorable or *adverse determination* within a reasonable time appropriate to the medical circumstances but no later than 15 days after the plan receives of the claim.

NOTICES (continued)

This period may be extended by an additional 15 days, if Humana determines the extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan. Before the end of the initial 15-day period, Humana will notify the *claimant* of the circumstances requiring the extension and the date by which Humana expects to make a decision.

If the reason for the extension is because Humana does not have enough information to decide the claim, the notice of extension will describe the required information, and the *claimant* will have at least 45 days from the date the notice is received to provide the necessary information.

- ***Urgent-care claims (expedited review)*** - Humana will determine whether a particular claim is an *urgent-care claim*. This determination will be based on information furnished by or on behalf of a covered person. Humana will exercise its judgment when making the determination with deference to the judgment of a physician with knowledge of the covered person's condition. Humana may require a *claimant* to clarify the medical urgency and circumstances supporting the *urgent-care claim* for expedited decision-making.

Notice of a favorable or *adverse determination* will be made by Humana as soon as possible, taking into account the medical urgency particular to the covered person's situation, but not later than 72 hours after receiving the *urgent-care claim*.

If a claim does not provide sufficient information to determine whether, or to what extent, services are covered under the plan, Humana will notify the *claimant* as soon as possible, but not more than 24 hours after receiving the *urgent-care claim*. The notice will describe the specific information necessary to complete the claim. The *claimant* will have a reasonable amount of time, taking into account the covered person's circumstances, to provide the necessary information – but not less than 48 hours.

Humana will provide notice of the plan's urgent-care claim determination as soon as possible but no more than 48 hours after the earlier of:

- The plan receives the specified information; or
 - The end of the period afforded the Claimant to provide the specified additional information.
- ***Concurrent-care decisions*** - Humana will notify a *claimant* of a *concurrent-care decision* involving a reduction or termination of pre-authorized benefits sufficiently in advance of the reduction or termination to allow the *claimant* to appeal and obtain a determination.

Humana will decide *urgent-care claims* involving an extension of a course of treatment as soon as possible taking into account medical circumstances. Humana will notify a *claimant* of the benefit determination, whether adverse or not, within 24 hours after the plan receives the claim, provided the claim is submitted to the plan 24 hours prior to the expiration of the prescribed period of time or number of treatments.

- ***Post-service claims*** - Humana will provide notice of a favorable or *adverse determination* within a reasonable time appropriate to the medical circumstances but no later than 30 days after the plan receives the claim.

NOTICES (continued)

This period may be extended an additional 15 days, if Humana determines the extension is necessary due to matters beyond the plan's control. Before the end of the initial 30-day period, Humana will notify the affected *claimant* of the extension, the circumstances requiring the extension and the date by which the plan expects to make a decision.

If the reason for the extension is because Humana does not have enough information to decide the claim, the notice of extension will describe the required information, and the claimant will have at least 45 days from the date the notice is received to provide the specified information. Humana will make a decision on the earlier of the date on which the claimant responds or the expiration of the time allowed for submission of the requested information.

Initial denial notices

Notice of a claim denial (including a partial denial) will be provided to *claimants* by mail, postage prepaid, by FAX or by e-mail, as appropriate, within the time frames noted above. With respect to adverse decisions involving *urgent-care claims*, notice may be provided to *claimants* orally within the time frames noted above. If oral notice is given, written notification must be provided no later than 3 days after oral notification.

A claims denial notice will convey the specific reason for the *adverse determination* and the specific plan provisions upon which the determination is based. The notice will also include a description of any additional information necessary to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such information is necessary. The notice will disclose if any internal plan rule, protocol or similar criterion was relied upon to deny the claim. A copy of the rule, protocol or similar criterion will be provided to *claimants*, free of charge, upon request.

The notice will describe the plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the Claimant's right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit determination on review.

If an *adverse determination* is based on medical necessity, experimental treatment or similar exclusion or limitation, the notice will state that an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination will be provided, free of charge, upon request. The explanation will apply the terms of the plan to the covered person's medical circumstances.

In the case of an adverse decision of an *urgent-care claim*, the notice will provide a description of the plan's expedited review procedures.

Appeals of adverse determinations

A *claimant* must appeal an *adverse determination* within 180 days after receiving written notice of the denial (or partial denial). An appeal may be made by a *claimant* by means of written application to Humana, in person, or by mail, postage prepaid.